

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026848
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 PM-05 ARA-10 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15
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APPROVED BY EUR/RPE:WRSALISBURY
S/AS:RKELLEY
OES/NET:RDEMING
PM:ALOCKE

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O 012006Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 026848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TECH, ENRG, MNUC

SUBJECT:DUTCH-BRAZILIAN PLUTONIUM STORAGE CONCEPT

REF: STATE 295812

REFERENCED MESSAGE, DATED 12/12/77, ADDRESSED TO VIENNA,
THE HAGUE, LONDON, BONN, BRASILIA, BRUSSELS (USEEC), IS
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THE DUTCH (AND
UK) HAVE SEVERAL TIMES, INCLUDING KOOJIMANS/SMITH DISCUS-
SION IN VIENNA IN SEPTEMBER, SUMMARIZED FOR US THE STATUS
OF THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT PLUTONIUM STORAGE
ARRANGEMENT. WE HAVE, IN REPLY, EXPLAINED OUR CONCERN THAT
SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD SERVE TO PREMATURELY LEGITIMIZE
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PAGE 02 STATE 026848

ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING CAPABILITIES, IN THIS CASE AND
PERHAPS OTHERS TO FOLLOW. WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED THAT IF
THE BRAZILIAN-DUTCH ARRANGEMENT IS BROUGHT TO THE IAEA
BOARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE FAVORABLE BOARD ACTION COULD
SERVE TO CEMENT FURTHER THE REPROCESSING FEATURE OF THE FRG-
BRAZILIAN ARRANGEMENT. WHILE APPRECIATING OUR CONCERNS THE

DUTCH HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THEY BELIEVE THEIR PROPOSED

ARRANGEMENT WILL BE BETTER THAN NOTHING, AND IS A NECESSITY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. WE UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITION BUT WISH TO AVOID SEEING THEIR ARRANGEMENT BROUGHT TO THE IAEA BOARD IN NEAR FUTURE IF THAT IS AT ALL FEASIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO KNOW WHETHER THERE IS STILL ANY ROOM FOR US TO INFLUENCE THIS MATTER, WHETHER THE GON IS DETERMINED TO BRING THIS SUBJECT BEFORE THE FEBRUARY BOARD, WHAT THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSED BOARD ITEM MIGHT BE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WHETHER THE GON CAN BE DISSUADED FROM BRINGING THIS MATTER TO THE BOARD AT THIS TIME. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT A GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF IAEA STORAGE OF EXCESS PLUTONIUM IS, AT BEST, PREMATURE WE SEE MAJOR DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN WHAT THE NETHERLANDS AND BRAZIL ELECT TO AGREE UPON BILATERALLY AMONG THEMSELVES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR PRESSING FOR AFFIRMATIVE BOARD APPROVAL OF THEIR ARRANGEMENT. ACTIVATION OF IAEA STORAGE RESPONSIBILITY OBVIOUSLY IS SEVERAL YEARS OFF AND WE BELIEVE THE MATTER SHOULD BEST BE BROUGHT TO THE BOARD WHEN THE AGENCY'S PROSPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BETTER DEFINED. ANY BRAZILIAN REPROCESSING PRESUMABLY IS MANY YEARS OFF AS IS THE ACQUISITION BY BRAZIL OF ANY EXCESS PLUTONIUM. MOREOVER, THE IAEA STILL IS IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES OF STUDYING ITS POTENTIAL ROLE AS A CUSTODIAN OF
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SUCH MATERIAL, AND SEVERAL MAJOR QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INFCE PROGRAM BEFORE ONE CAN GAUGE WHETHER THIS IAEA CUSTODIAL ROLE IS A VIABLE AND PRUDENT CONCEPT. WE ALSO WOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED IF PREMATURE IAEA BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF IAEA STEWARDSHIP WOULD, BY SUGGESTING THAT ATTRACTIVE NEW SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND TO SECURE THE PRODUCED PLUTONIUM, SERVE TO UNDERMINE OUR CURRENT EFFORT TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO DEFER REPROCESSING. CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY TAKE PUBLIC EXCEPTION TO THE GON-BRAZILIAN ARRANGEMENT IF IT IS LEFT AS A PURELY BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING FOR THE TIME BEING, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT OUR STANCE MAY HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE NEGATIVE OR CIRCUMSPECT IF THE PROJECT COMES BEFORE THE IAEA BOARD. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE A CASE CAN BE MADE THAT THE GON-BRAZILIAN UNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR DUTCH DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

3. FOR THE HAGUE: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH SENIOR GON OFFICIALS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. USG IS CONSIDERING QUESTIONS PROFESSOR KOOJIMANS

RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR SMITH IN VIENNA. WHILE WE UNDER-

STAND THAT DR. KOOJIMANS HAS RETURNED TO PRIVATE LIFE, WE
SENSE THAT GON IS STILL INTERESTED IN FINALIZING ITS
ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRAZIL ON PLUTONIUM STORAGE.

B. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GON HAS EXPLAINED THAT AGREEMENT ON
A PLUTONIUM STORAGE IS IMPORTANT TO THE NETHERLANDS FOR
DOMESTIC REASONS.

C. AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED, USG CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED
THAT UNDUE EMPHASIS ON THE IAEA PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME AT
THIS TIME COULD SERVE TO LEGITIMIZE PREMATURE REPROCES-
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PAGE 04 STATE 026848

THE CONCEPT POSES A NUMBER OF MAJOR QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE
NOT YET BEEN ANALYZED OR SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED.

D. WHAT IS THE LATEST STATUS OF THE MATTER? IS IT STILL
INTENDED THAT THE GON-BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL COME TO THE
FEBRUARY BOARD? IF SO, CAN YOU PROVIDE US ANY SPECIFIC
INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THE BOARD ITEM?

E. ASSUMING THE ANSWERS TO PARA D ARE AFFIRMATIVE, WE
WOULD URGENTLY WELCOME RECEIVING THE VIEWS OF THE GON AS
TO WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE FOR THE NETHERLANDS,
WHILE REACHING SOME BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL CON-
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BRAZIL WOULD STILL BE BOUND TO CONCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE
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F. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INQUIRE WHETHER URENCO AS A WHOLE
WILL HAVE APPROVAL RIGHTS OVER ENRICHMENT TO GREATER THAN
20 PERCENT? SUCH APPROVAL RIGHTS APPEAR TO US TO BE
LOGICAL AND DESIRABLE.

4. FOR VIENNA, BRASILIA, LONDON AND BONN: ANY INFORMATION
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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